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The PRESIDENT proposed that the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Baines for his communication and for the interesting specimens he had presented to their Museum. He had promised to attend at an early meeting of the Society and to exhibit a collection of sketches taken during his travels in Africa.

Dr. SEEMANN observed that the fire-sticks exhibited were similar to those used by savages in other parts of the world. They consisted of a soft piece of wood and a piece of hard wood, and the heat produced by rubbing them together ignited the powder rubbed from the soft wood, which was then blown into a flame. It appeared from Mr. Baines's communication, that in Africa two men were required to produce fire in that manner, but among the Esquimaux one man obtained fire by that means. It required great dexterity to do it and he had never succeeded, but Mr. Pritchard had.

Major OWEN remarked that the wooden sandal exhibited had apparently come from India. Sandals of that kind were very common at Calcutta.

The PRESIDENT said a letter had been received from Mr. George M'Henry, a Fellow of the Society, and a Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, correcting a misrepresentation in the Queen's Speech on the opening of Parliament that day. As the letter had only been received that evening it could not be submitted to the Council in the usual manner, and as it would be somewhat irregular, therefore, to read it, he submitted the question to the meeting.

The question whether the letter should be read was put to the meeting and was carried.

Mr. BEAVAN then read the letter as follows :—

“Paddington, Feb. 6, 1866.

“SIR,—The truths of history and the facts of science oftentimes bear so close a relationship that I, as a Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and a Fellow of the Anthropological Society of London, cannot refrain from criticising to you some remarks made in the Royal Speech to-day. Her Majesty is reputed to have said, in the paragraph referring to the United States, that ‘The abolition of slavery is an event calling forth the cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been *foremost* in showing its abhorrence of an *institution* repugnant to every feeling of justice and humanity.’ Not being an Englishman I have nothing whatever to do with the ‘cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country’ in the matter of emancipation, nor do I desire that my native state, Pennsylvania, should have any credit for abolishing slavery after that ‘institution’, as the Queen is graciously pleased to call it, became unprofitable; but certain it is, that under the influence of the Quakers, Pennsylvania was not only the ‘foremost’ state to agitate freedom for the Negro, but she likewise was ‘foremost’ in prohibiting the ‘institution’ to exist within her borders. Her legislature, in 1780, during the revolutionary war, when the consent of the Crown was not required, and when it would have been refused had it been needed, passed the following enactment :—

“ ‘All persons, as well Negroes and Mulattos and others, who shall be born within this state, shall not be deemed or considered as servants for life or slaves; and all servitude for life, or slavery of children, in consequence of the slavery of their mothers, in the case of all children born within this state from and after the passing of this act as aforesaid, shall be and is hereby utterly taken away, extinguished, and for ever abolished: provided, however, children born hereafter of slave mothers are to be held to servitude until they are twenty-eight years old.’

“I draw your attention to this matter merely for the purpose of keeping history from being warped. If cotton and rice could have been cultivated in Pennsylvania she would have been a slave state to this day, because, if her productions had been similar to those of the Southern States she would have cast her lot with the Confederates, and in that case the South would have been the more powerful of the two sections of the American union.

“The African slave trade was first temporarily abolished by the Revolutionary Congress of 1774, and then by the several states south of Mason’s and Dixon’s line. Subsequently all the states, through the Congress under the Constitution of 1789, agreed to discontinue the commerce in 1808. Great Britain abandoned the trade about the same time, though she was very slow, and certainly was not foremost in adopting that policy.

“Your obedient servant,

“GEO. MCHENRY.

“A number of the states of the American union, not Massachusetts, abolished slavery long before Great Britain thought of doing so, and if I remember right France was some years in advance of England in the matter.

“To James Hunt, Esq., President A.S.L.”

The PRESIDENT observed that Her Majesty was not to blame for the sentiments expressed, and that Earl Russell had not shown much knowledge of anthropology in the manner he had dealt with the Negroes. He must say that such conduct was repugnant to his feelings of justice and humanity, and it would bring great misery on the Negro race. Unless care was taken to correct the measures that were being adopted in Jamaica such outrages would always be taking place.

Mr. BOLLAERT remarked, that their Vice-President, Capt. Burton, had said in a recent work, that the citizens of the United States were always doing what they could to improve the American Indians off the face of the earth, and they seemed now to be doing the same thing with the Negroes.

The PRESIDENT said the Society were doing their duty in correcting historical mistakes relating to the introduction of slavery that might subsequently mislead, and they were indebted to Mr. M’Henry for sending his notice of the Queen’s Speech. The President announced that Mr. Pritchard, the Special Commissioner from the Anthropological Society of London to Jamaica to investigate the anthropological causes of the recent insurrection of Negroes in that island, would leave

for Jamaica by the next mail, and that Dr. Seemann, a Vice-President of the Society, would accompany him and assist him in his investigations of the subject. They should, therefore, have a doubly valuable report as to the real causes of the recent insurrection.

The meeting then adjourned.

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FEBRUARY 20TH, 1866.

JAMES HUNT, ESQ., PH.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed.

The names of the new Fellows elected were announced as under:—

Alexander Aria, Esq., 8, Randolph Road, Maida Hill; T. G. Wesley Bennett, Esq., 39, Moorgate Street, E.C.; Arthur B. Harris, Esq., M.D., Falmouth, Cornwall; Richard King, Esq., M.D., F.E.S., 17, Savile Row, Regent Street, W.; James McCrevey, Esq., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, 66th Regiment, Raglan Barracks, Devonport; Fenwick T. Poole, Esq., 26, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Hugh R. Semper, Esq., 47, York Street, Portman Square.

The following presents were announced to have been received, and the thanks of the Society were given to the donors:—

Laycock, Mind and Brain; Mayhew, London Labour and London Poor (extra volume); Winslow's Journal of Psychological Medicine; Brierre de Boismont, Du Suicide; Des Hallucinations; Lébut, l'Amulette de Pascal; Du Démon de Socrate; Leçon Clinique de Médecine mentale; Prosper Lucas, L'hérédité Naturelle; Fabret, Des Maladies Mentales, or Mental Medicine; Serres, Recherches sur l'Anatomie transcendante (with atlas); Journal of Mental Science (Dr. J. Hillier Blount, F.A.S.L.); Pruner-Bey, Sur les origines Hongroises; Résultats de craniometrie (the author); Covarrúbias's Manifesto on the Affairs of Chile (Charles Blake, Esq.); Möbius, Prof., Anniversary Address (the author); Königliche sächsische gesellschaft der Wissenschaften (the Society); Schriften der Königlicher physikalisch-öconomische gesellschaft (the Society); P. A. F. Causen, Geodätische untersuchungen (the author).

*A Few Remarks on the Bunu Tribe of Central Africa.* By T. VALENTINE ROBINS, F.A.S.L., F.R.G.S., F.F.S.\*

The boy submitted for your inspection is a native of the Bunu country, which lies at about four days' journey from the British settlement of Lukoja on the Niger, and to the north-west of the confluence in ten degrees north of the equator; he was redeemed from slavery by the late Dr. Baikie, who founded the settlement, and who died at Sierra Leone on his passage to England in 1864. The boy would cost 170,000 cowries, which is the currency there, and is equal

\* In illustration of this paper, a boy of the Bunu tribe, a collection of portraits, and numerous articles of manufacture were also exhibited.—ED. J.A.S.L.